



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMISSION
LANSING

(APPROVED)

Minutes of the Meeting held October 26, 2007

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Morris, Chair
Michael Prince
Anne Corgan
Capt. Robert Powers
John Friend
Dwight Sinila
Pamela Hall
Linda Scarpetta
Sheriff Al Byam
Steven Puuri
Chief David Stamm

MEMBERS EXCUSED

All present

REPRESENTING

Office of the Governor
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)
Department of State (MDOS)
Department of State Police (MSP)
Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Department of Education (MDOE)
Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)
Department of Community Health (MDCH)
Local Representative
Local Representative
Local Representative

STAFF

Deb Sonnenberg

GUESTS

Bob Lariviere
Gary Bubar
David Teater
Richard Backs
Dave Morena
Bryan MacKenzie
Homer Smith
Angela Glew
Heather Hockanson
Robin Shivley
Carol Reagan
James Culp
Bob Felt
Larry Tibbits
Brian Zimmerman
Mark Bott
Cathy Pavick
Barb Subastian
Matt Bolger
Sydney Smith
Debbie Savage
Kathy Farnum
Jason Hamblen
David Wallace
Jeff Mitchell
Lawrence Hummel
Eric Bombery

REPRESENTING

AAA Michigan
AAA Michigan
Aegis Mobility
CMU
FHWA
House of Representatives
MADD Michigan
MDCH
MDCH
MDCH-EMS
MDOS
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
Michigan Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA)
Michigan Liquor Control Commission
MSP
MSP-CJIC
OHSP
OHSP
OHSP
Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan (PAAM)
Van Buren Co. Road Commission
Van Buren Co. Road Commission
WATS

Robert Morris, Governor's Office • Michael Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Linda Scarpetta, Community Health
Dwight Sinila, Education • Anne Corgan, State • Capt. Robert Powers, State Police • John C. Friend, Transportation •
Pamela Hall, Office of Services to the Aging • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative
Steven Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative

Chair Robert Morris called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A Roll Call of the GTSAC members was taken establishing a quorum was present.

Public Comment/Announcement Items

None

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Morris entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from the August 24, 2007, GTSAC meeting. *Mr. Sinila made motion to approve the minutes which was supported by Sheriff Byam. Motion carried.*

Chair's Reports/Updates – Robert Morris

Mr. Morris stated that at the next meeting, there will be discussion on how GTSAC should move forward in 2008 to update the State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

Helmet Legislation – Mr. Morris, on behalf of the GTSAC, drafted a letter to Governor Granholm urging her to veto the new helmet legislation that has passed the House and Senate. Mr. Morris expressed that since GTSAC has taken a position on the issue in the past, this letter would serve as a reinforcement of that. Mr. Morris requested the commissioners to raise any questions or concerns they may have about the letter. *A motion was made by Mr. Puuri to send the letter as written which was supported by Captain Powers. A roll call vote was taken with 10 yea's and Ms. Corgan abstaining. Motion passed.*

Legislative Report – Sgt. Matt Bolger/MSP

Sgt. Matt Bolger provided an overview of legislation currently before the Legislature that impacts traffic safety issues. A Legislative Summary Report was provided to everyone.

GTSAC Commissioner Updates

➤ Department of Transportation (MDOT) – John Friend

Mr. Friend reported that MDOT has begun implementation on the project to have rumble strips installed on the edge-line and center-line of non-freeway roads. The first set of center-line rumble strips have been put down on the west side of the state. Mr. Friend acknowledged the Lane Departure Action Team for the recommendation of the center line strips. MDOT's analysis indicates the placement of center-line strips on non-freeway sections will save a considerable number of lives and reduce serious injuries as well.

Another MDOT project moving toward implementation is the installation of cable guard rails in narrow median areas that will allow for quicker accident correction. The first construction of this guard rail is planned for late spring or early summer 2008, possibly along I-69 between Lansing and Flint.

➤ Department of State (DOS) – Anne Corgan

The DOS has refreshed the motorcycle knowledge test which will be rolled out to the branch offices on November 19. The test was revised to be more current and relevant since it was last updated in 1991.

The first of 80 young driver workshops will be conducted between now and the end of the year to train teens and driver education instructors on the new curriculum. Ms. Corgan acknowledged AAA for its assistance to DOS by purchasing and providing this curriculum to providers statewide. The training will continue into 2008.

DOS has updated the Michigan Graduated Driver Licensing Guide for Parents to incorporate all of the changes related to the merger of driver education within the DOS and the new Driver Education Provider and Instructor Act.

➤ Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Pamela Hall

Ms. Hall indicated the OSA presentation she had scheduled for this meeting would have to be rescheduled to another meeting. Ms. Hall also provided a correction to the OSA portion of the August 24 meeting minutes.

➤ **Department of Community Health (MDCH) Linda Scarpetta**

MDCH is wrapping up their bicycle helmet grant from OHSP. Over the past year there have been 64 local agencies that have distributed over 8,500 helmets. Those agencies include county sheriff offices, local health departments, and local safe kids groups. In addition, the agencies have distributed helmet fitting brochures, over 7,000 goody bags for kids that include an activity coloring book, a pledge card, a I'm Safe on Wheels DVD, and helmet tips.

In the upcoming year, MDCH will continue to provide certification classes for child passenger safety seat technicians throughout the state and also recertification classes. MDCH is focusing on maintaining the certification of the technicians and that network. MDCH will also be coordinating child passenger safety in buses, EMS, and special health care needs classes. MDCH is in the process of finalizing the law enforcement curriculum which is to be piloted in the state, and conducting outreach efforts to underserved counties without technicians or any sort of child passenger safety activities. MDCH will also be working with migrant and other Head Start agencies to do outreach to those populations...

➤ **Department of Education (MDOE) – Dwight Sinila**

Next week, Michigan is hosting for the first time the National Association of Pupil Transportation Conference and Trade Show in Grand Rapids. This conference will bring together thousands of pupil transportation directors, supervisors, drivers, manufactures, and vendors. This is expected to be the largest gathering of pupil transportation professionals in the country to meet and discuss pupil transportation issues.

The DOE is continuing work on updating the curriculum for the basic bus driver course and the bus driver supervisor course curriculum. In addition, DOE is working with State Police and AAA to revise and improve the crossing guard curriculum. This curriculum hasn't been addressed in several years and DOE is anxious to have it completed and issued out as soon as possible.

DOE is in the final stages of developing their recommendations for the new physical examination procedures for bus drivers.

➤ **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**

The MACP is accepting nominations from local police chiefs for the motor vehicle and commercial vehicle traffic safety awards. Awards will be presented at the MACP conference in February 2008.

Through a grant from Community Health, Genesee County has formed a committee partnering law enforcement, the Health Department, and other local groups to implement a youth alcohol program. The committee's goal is to reduce the young drivers' crash and death rates in the area. Chief Stamm is a member of the committee and commented on how the committee is utilizing the Michigan Traffic Crash Facts for county data.

➤ **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**

The S.T.O.P.P.E.D. program now has 70 counties involved with over 3,000 vehicles registered. The Department of State has been a very big partner in this endeavor. At the recent Sheriffs' Association conference, awards were issued to those counties that have taken the lead in this program. The program is also gaining some national attention. Other states are sending representatives to Michigan to review the program. Sheriff Byam thanked AAA for their fiscal sponsorship and support without which the program would not have been implemented.

➤ **Local Representation – Steven Puuri**

The County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) is now accepting nominations for their Traffic Safety Awards.

A recent lawsuit filed in Oakland County is challenging the safety of the visually impaired persons maneuvering roundabouts. CRAM is monitoring closely to determine if design, etc., modifications would be needed.

Dave Morena stated that for three years ADA representatives have been lobbying for some sort of signalization for visually impaired pedestrians at roundabouts. This request has met with national resistance since it would defeat the purpose of a roundabout.

➤ **Department of State Police (MSP) – Capt. Robert Powers**

Vehicle safety inspectors of the MSP Traffic Safety Division (formerly Motor Carrier Division) completed the 2006-07 school bus inspection process. A total of 17,282 black and yellow school buses (public and private) were inspected with 89.3% or 15,448 buses passing. Vehicle inspectors red-tagged 1,370 school buses representing 7.9% of the state's fleet. This is the third year in a row the number of buses passing inspection has increased and a corresponding decreased in the number that failed. Buses that were yellow-tagged equaled 464 or 2.7% of the state's fleet. This year, there is 302 school districts receiving certificates of excellence to commemorate they had 100 percent passing of their fleet. Bus inspection statistics are available by school district on the Traffic Safety Division Web site at www.michigan.gov/motorcarrier.

A new program initiative, Operation Safe Driver, co-sponsored by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), is operating October 21-26 in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. to target unsafe driver behavior. This program is aimed to bring more attention to those factors that contribute most significantly to commercial vehicle crashes.

Captain Powers reported on the status of the NAFTA Demonstration project. To date, there are seven Mexican carriers approved to operate beyond the commercial zone. These carriers are being held to a very strict and stringent safety standard, more so than the American and Canadian carriers.

➤ **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Michael Prince**

Drunk Driving Crackdown - Law enforcement officers from more than 500 agencies across Michigan took part in the national *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* Crackdown from August 17 – September 3. During the crackdown, there were 1,002 DWI arrests and another 513 for other alcohol-related offenses. In addition to the alcohol arrests, there were 390 felony and 2,170 misdemeanor arrests. Officers also wrote 9,582 speeding citations and issued 1,325 safety belt citations and 46 child restraint citations.

DUI Warrant Sweeps - During the crackdown, at least 45 agencies in 28 counties conducted warrant sweeps where officers sought out individuals who have failed to appear in court on previous alcohol-related charges. The sweeps resulted in 262 arrests on outstanding warrants, 77 of those for alcohol-related offenses.

Halloween Enforcement - Nearly 42 percent of Michigan's traffic fatalities over last year's Halloween weekend involved alcohol. As a result, OHSP is providing federal traffic safety funds to law enforcement agencies to patrol for drunk drivers starting this weekend and running through the weekend after Halloween. More than 50 law enforcement agencies in 14 counties will be participating in this enforcement effort.

2008 Traffic Safety Summit - Work continues on finalizing the agenda for the 2008 Traffic Safety Summit. The date is March 11-13, 2008 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Once a final draft of the agenda is finalized it will be posted on the OHSP Web site and updated as the need arises. The awards luncheon is on the final day, March 13. Commissions were asked to make note of this on their calendars. Invitations for the luncheon will again be sent to all Commissioners and their department directors.

Drowsy Driving Symposium - The Wake Up, Michigan! Drowsy Driving Symposium took place Wednesday, September 20, in Grand Rapids at the Steelcase Town Hall Center. It was a very well-attended event, with about 150 in all. Presentations were made on a wide variety of drowsy driving issues: sleep disorders, engineering solutions (rumble strips), automotive technology, laws and enforcement, and workplace policies. The Grand Rapids Press wrote an article the day of the event, at least two radio stations ran stories, and two news cameras came to the symposium.

Drive Safely Work Week - Dan Vartanian, the OHSP Corporate Programs Coordinator and Mr. Prince attended the opening ceremonies of the 4th annual Drive Safely to Wayne State University campaign held at Gullen Mall in the center of campus. Approximately 100 safety advocates attended the opening ceremony that was emceed by Jackie Paige, Traffic Reporter for FOX news. The welcoming address was made by Dr. Nancy Barrett, Provost at WSU followed by Dr. Ralph Kummier, Dean, College of Engineering. Other notable speakers included: Honorable Terri Lynn Land; Col. Peter Munoz, MSP Director; and Jackie Shinn, Chief Deputy Director, MDOT. Four special award presentations were made to long time supporters of Wayne State's Drive Safely Campaign that included: Larry Tibbits of MDOT; John Friend of MDOT; AAA Michigan; and Mike Prince, OHSP.

New Traffic Safety Materials - Five new free publications have been added to the Office of Highway Safety Planning Traffic Safety Materials Catalog. The publications include updated pedestrian and bicycle safety brochures, and a new flyer about the dangers of driving drunk. Other recent additions are two new posters; one urging motorcyclists to get their motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license and another reminding teens that being caught drinking alcohol before they are 21 has serious consequences. A copy of the OHSP materials catalog and order form was included in each Commissioner packet. This information can also be found on-line at www.michigan.gov/ohsp, click on Traffic Safety Materials.

Reports

➤ **Occupant Protection (Child Passenger Safety-CPS) Action Team – Ms. Heather Hockanson**

The Child Passenger Safety/Occupant Protection Action Team has developed the Michigan CPS Strategic Plan 2006-2010 to reduce deaths, injuries, and disabilities to children from motor vehicle crashes. Ms. Hockanson provided an overview of the plan and a summary of activities to date. The plan's major recommendations include:

1. Training - Increase and strengthen the capacity of the CPS network to conduct training.
2. Law Enforcement – Develop and deliver CPS training for law enforcement.
3. Enforcement – Increase enforcement of occupant protection laws, not just during campaigns.
4. Health Care and Family Service Providers – Assist hospitals with adopting a discharge policy and address liability concerns.
5. Public Information and Education – Develop a stand-alone, centralized, easy to remember, occupant protection/CPS web site where the public can access timely, accurate, and consistent information on restraint laws and correct use of restraint systems, technical information and training opportunities, and downloadable education materials. Also in conjunction with the website, coordinate a statewide toll-free telephone number to request educational materials and receive personal assistance.
6. Local Health Departments – Integrate CPS education into local health department programs that will include information on obtaining child restraints for their clients.
7. Research – Conduct annual or biennial observation studies to monitor restraint use of children.
8. Legislation – Strengthen CPS legislation.
9. Community Education – Provide community education and awareness.

Ms. Hockanson announced that due to changes in her MDCH position assignments, Ms. Angela Glew is taking over as chair of the Occupant Protection Action Team.

➤ **Young Driver Action Team – Mr. Gary Bubar, AAA**

Mr. Bubar provided a copy of the action team's current Action Plan. Under research and analysis, the team included comparing other states' young driver activities and statistics to Michigan's and use the information to get a better idea of how Michigan is doing and ways to improve.

Another item added to the plan is reviewing crashes that involve the number of peer passengers to determine its significance and the distractions that occur with it. They will be recruiting officers from state, county, and local agencies to assist in this endeavor.

Mr. Bubar stated that the number of 18-20 year olds involved in crashes continues to increase and that the number of 18-20 year old drivers does not reflect the numbers that have gone through the Graduated Drivers License (GDL) process. This could be due to 16 & 17 year olds not wanting to get their license

yet or just waiting until they are 18 when the GDL isn't required so they don't have to pay the \$300-400 fees. The Action Team plans to reexamine education as a requirement for drivers over 18.

Mr. Bubar recently represented Michigan on a teen driver round-table in Atlanta. Mr. Bubar reported it was very interesting to see as a benchmark where Michigan stands compared to other states and what the other states are moving toward requirement wise. Michigan is the only state that has a two-tier education process which is a great thing.

The next major endeavor agreed upon at the round-table was to get national GDL consistency. To do this, most attendees agreed it would be necessary to adopt what was done with .08 BAC and make it a national effort tied to highway traffic safety funds. There would be a list of requirements states would have to incorporate in their law in order to receive these funds. Michigan, as it stands today, would not be eligible to receive the funds based on not meeting two of the proposed requirements, passenger restrictions and time restrictions.

➤ **Impaired Driving Action Team – Mr. Homer Smith, MADD Michigan**

The release of the 2006 impaired crash fatality numbers denoted an increase for the first time in at least 10 years. The team is focusing deeply into the possible reasons for this by reviewing what Michigan has been doing, and what other states are doing, to determine what steps are needed to turn the numbers around. To address this issue, the team decided to put on a one-day Impaired Driving Leadership Summit probably in April. This summit would target a different audience than the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. It would be aimed to engage prevention professionals in the leadership areas of law enforcement, prosecutors, county commissioners, etc. The overall goal of the summit would be to increase the priority of addressing impaired driving beyond law enforcement to effectively reduce the impaired crash fatality numbers in the future.

Presentations

➤ **State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Implementation – Capt. Robert R. Powers, MSP**

Due to time constraints this item was tabled to the next meeting.

➤ **American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) National Initiatives – Mr. Larry Tibbits, MDOT**

Mr. Tibbits remarked how he enjoyed the action team reports given today. He stated it is clear that the reason some states are struggling is because their action teams are not active in their Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

At an AASHTO meeting earlier this year, MDOT Director Kirk Steudle was asked to comment on how Michigan consistently drives their traffic safety numbers down. An AASHTO consultant reviewed Michigan's programs along with Iowa's and Washington's and the conclusion of Michigan's success was attributed to the GTSAC and its action teams. Mr. Tibbits applauds the action teams' membership including other departments, agencies, and all levels of law enforcement. This diversity enables a dialog of common goals and actions state wide.

Mr. Tibbits provided an organizational view of AASHTO. AASHTO's sub-committees set the standards for the nation's highways and processes, etc., and AASHTO is the national transportation voice to Congress. It also provides for keeping all states focused on a common cause.

Director Steudle has been named chair of the Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety and Mr. Tibbits is chair of the Sub-committee on Safety Management. What makes the Sub-committee on Safety Management effective is that it represents all 50 states with each state having three representatives. It is a team encompassing representatives from all of the disciplines of traffic safety including DOTs, the Governor's Highway Safety Administration (GHSA), American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), Transportation Engineers, International Association of Chief's of Police (IACP), National Association of County Engineers, Emergency Management, and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). With the completion of all 50 states' Strategic Highway Safety Plans (SHSP), Mr. Tibbits is

charged with how to keep this sub-committee vitalized to keep the SHSP's of all 50 states alive and well. Michigan's program is being looked at as a model example for other states to keep their action plans fresh. Mr. Tibbits concluded his report by providing an outline and summation the national initiatives of AASHTO and encouraged everyone to provide their thoughts and ideas to him on what the next reauthorization funding should look like so he can pass them on to the AASHTO board of directors.

➤ **CMU Center for Driving Evaluation, Education, and Research (DEER) – Dr. Richard W. Backs**

Dr. Backs presented an overview of the purpose and function of the newly established DEER center at CMU. Web site: www.deercenter.org. Dr. Backs welcomes questions is seeking partners to serve on their Advisory Board.

The DEER Center focuses on three areas. 1. To provide senior drivers clinical services to evaluate cognitive fitness to drive. This is primarily for older adults, but is also for adults who may have had traumatic brain injuries, stroke, or disease. They do not do occupational therapy. Focus is on visual attention dysfunctions in adults. 2. Provide education to improve older driver safety, including AARP driver safety program, and the We Need to Talk program for families of senior drivers. 3. Conduct research on older drivers and drivers with attention disorders, including distracted drivers.

The goals of the center are: 1. Develop a state-of-the-art facility that will provide clinical assessment and education for older drivers in Central and Northern Michigan to improve driving safety in the state of Michigan. 2. Become a nationally recognized facility for driving research on aging and attention disorders. 3. Provide clinical and research opportunities for CMU students and faculty. 4. Establish community/university collaborations and partnerships to improve driving safety in the state of Michigan.

➤ **Sobriety Court Video – Jason Hamblen/OHSP**

Due to time constraints this item was tabled to the next meeting.

➤ **EMS Services/Reassessment – Ms. Robin Shively/MDCH**

Due to time constraints this item was tabled to the next meeting.

➤ **Cell Phone Driving, A Technology Solution – Mr. David D. Teater**

Mr. Teater is on assignment with Aegis Mobility Solutions to educate on the distractive dangers of using a cell phone while driving and to promote the Aegis mobile call management system that enables subscribers to manage cell phone communications while driving to improve road safety and minimize driver distraction. The Aegis system automatically detects when a cell phone is in motion and intelligently manages the session, whether it is voice, text, media, or other forms of data communications over existing and emerging wireless networks.

Many US states have introduced legislation that restricts cell phone use while driving. The NTSB recommends all 50 states adopt bans on all cell phone use among teen drivers under their GDL programs. There is a strong need for a technology solution that allows users to get the maximum benefit of new and emerging wireless services but at the same time ensure that safety is not compromised when those services are used while driving. Delivering that solution is the Aegis Mobility mission.

Mr. Teater requests any agency with funding available to designate some in promoting driver distraction education. Furthermore, he encourages everyone to support education and legislation and pilot technology. Mr. Teater stated the Governors Highway Safety Administration (GHSA) has offered funding to states to pilot Aegis' technology. Thus far two states have made application. Mr. Teater expressed his desire for the GTSAC to encourage a ban of using cell phones while driving and for Michigan to take a leadership role to educate the public of the dangers and support legislation. For more information, contact David Teater at (604) 899-1008 ext. 104, or via e-mail at david.teater@aegismobility.com.

Mr. Morris commented that everyone in the room was aware of the dangers of cell phone use while driving. Michigan does have bills in process and Mr. Morris encouraged everyone to contact their state legislators and Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers (www.house.gov/writerep/ or at 202-225-3831) who is an engineer and on the house transportation and infrastructure committee. Mr. Morris also stated that Mr. Tibbits and Mr. Steudle could use their positions within AASHTO to support a national cell phone ban since Congress rewrites the federal highway law which has a huge component in it on safety

Other Business

Mr. Prince announced that nominations for the GTSAC Outstanding Contributions to Traffic Safety Awards 2007 are being accepted until December 3. He encouraged everyone to submit someone or an organization worthy of the award. The awards will be presented at the Traffic Safety Summit luncheon Thursday, March 13, 2008.

The award selection committee is in need of GTSAC volunteers to review the nominations. Anyone interested should contact Ms. Debbie Savage of OHSP.

GTSAC Administrative Items

The 2008 proposed GTSAC meeting schedule was presented to the Commissioners and was accepted unanimously. The schedule will be posted to the GTSAC Web site.

Misc. Handouts

Updated Commissioner & Action Team Chair Rosters
Traffic Safety Materials Catalog

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Next Meeting

December 14, 2007